

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 241729Z MAY 76

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 2147

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 15281

DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR S. KALLEK, D. PETERSON & E.
FORMAN

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TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: WORKING PARTY NO.9 OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
ON INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS, MAY 17-20

SUMMARY: THE 16TH MEETING OF WORKING PARTY 9 OF THE
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS MET MAY
17-20, 1976. A ONE-DAY STRIKE OF OECD EMPLOYEES PRE-
VENTED MEETING ON MAY 19 BUT EXTENDED MEETING HOURS ON
THE 18TH AND 20TH OF MAY PERMITTED COMPLETION OF THE
AGENDA. MS. SHIRLEY KALLEK OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
HEADED U.S. DEL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO REVIEW THE
SECTOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM OF INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS AND
DETERMINE HOW THIS PROGRAM COULD BE REDUCED SUBSTAN-
TIALY. THE WORKING PARTY WAS INFORMED BY THE SECRETA-
RIAT THAT THE REDUCTION SHOULD BE IN THE RANGE OF 40-50
PERCENT IN THE NUMBER OF PUBLISHED PAGES.
SINCE NO COSTS, ALTHOUGH REQUESTED, WERE SUPPLIED BY
THE SECRETARIAT, COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAD TO ASSUME THAT
THE NUMBER OF PAGES WAS AN ACCEPTABLE PROXY FOR WORKLOAD

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COSTS. THE WORKING PARTY DID NOT BELIEVE IT HAD

SUFFICIENT COST INFORMATION TO PERFORM AN EFFECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE SECTOR STATISTICAL WORK AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR MORE AND BETTER BUDGETARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE COSTS OF THE VARIOUS STATISTICAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT. THE WP URGED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SUPPLY MEASURES OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, I.E. MAN-HOURS, PUBLICATION COSTS, ETC., OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS AT THE OCTOBER 1976 MEETING SO THAT A MORE REALISTIC WORKING PROGRAM FOR 1977 CAN BE PROPOSED.

2. REVIEW OF SECTOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM

A. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED:

- (1) ELIMINATION OF ALL ANALYTICAL TEXT AND TABLES;
- (2) ELIMINATION OF ALL PUBLICATION TABLES RELATED TO IMPORTS AND EXPORTS WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OECD DATA BANK;
- (3) REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF HISTORICAL DATA SHOWN IN THE REPORTS, AND
- (4) ELIMINATION OF DATA ELEMENTS ALREADY COLLECTED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INVESTIGATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THESE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE WILLING TO COLLECT AND COMPILE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS NECESSARY.

B. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE REPORTS ON THE CEMENT INDUSTRY AND PART II OF THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES COULD BE DROPPED IMMEDIATELY. THE OTHER REPORTS WOULD BE REVIEWED TO ELIMINATE THOSE SECTIONS IN 2-A ABOVE AS APPLICABLE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW AT THE PRESENT TIME IF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY COLLECTING INFORMATION IN PARTICULAR FIELDS WOULD BE WILLING TO COLLECT THE ADDITIONAL DATA ITEMS. MOREOVER, SOME OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT PROVIDE THE INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND CONTINUATION OF THIS PRACTICE WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WORKING PARTY.

C. A DECISION ON THE TEXTILE REPORT COULD NOT BE REACHED AT THIS TIME, SINCE THE DATA ITEMS COLLECTED MUST BE REVIEWED IN RELATION TO THE NEEDS OF THE MULTI-FIBER AGREEMENT OF GATT. THERE IS ALSO AN UNCLASSIFIED

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UNEVENNESS OF THE QUALITY OF THE DATA BEING REPORTED TO OECD. THE SECRETARIAT WAS REQUESTED TO REVIEW THE TEXTILE PROGRAM AND REPORT BACK AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY SO THAT A FINAL DECISION COULD BE REACHED.

D. SELECTED AREAS OF OTHER REPORTS WERE ELIMINATED AND/OR PUBLICATION PLANS TIGHTENED UP, WHICH SHOULD ALSO

REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PUBLISHED PAGES.

E. IN ALL, THE PROPOSAL TENTATIVELY ADOPTED BY THE
WORKING PARTY SHOULD REDUCE THE WORKLOAD IN TERMS OF

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NUMBER OF PAGES BY 40 TO 50 PERCENT. THE WORKING
PARTY EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH A CUT IN WORKLOAD SHOULD
ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY MORE PROMPT RELEASE OF THE DATA.

3. SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS

A. THE WORKING PARTY ACCEPTED A PROPOSAL OF THE SECRE-
TARIAT THAT AN ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL TRENDS
BE PREPARED ANNUALLY FOR THE FULL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE'S
REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.
A DRAFT WILL BE PREPARED FOR COMMENT BY THE WORKING
PARTY AT ITS NEXT MEETING. AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO
MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN DETAILED INFORMATION AND OVER-
ALL INFORMATION. SUMMARY TABLES AND CHARTS WILL BE
INCLUDED WHEREVER APPLICABLE. ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES
WERE URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR DATA ON AS TIMELY A BASIS
AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE ANALYSIS CAN BE BASED ON THE

MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE. THE WORKING PARTY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAIN OF THE SECRETARIAT RESOURCES AND URGED CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF OECD IN PREPARING THE REPORT.

B. ADDITIONAL EFFORT IS NEEDED IN THE AREA OF QUANTITATIVE ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE
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USEFULNESS OF THE PUBLICATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF TIMELINESS, SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT, PRICE DEFLATION AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS.

4. PROPOSED AGENDA AND NEXT MEETING

A. THE NEXT SESSION OF WORKING PARTY NO.9 IS PROPOSED FOR OCTOBER 18-20, 1976.

B. THE AGENDA ITEMS WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE IMPACT BY THE REDUCTION OF THE INDUSTRY SECTOR PROGRAM; FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS AS OUTLINED ABOVE; CONTINUATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL WORK IN THE QUALITATIVE INDICATORS PROGRAM, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM FOR 1977.

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